GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
RURAL DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:2452
ANSWERED ON:13.03.2001
CRITERIA FOR IDENTIFICATION OF BACKWARD AND POOR DISTRICTS
CHANDRA NATH SINGH

Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria adopted for identifying the most backward and poorest districts in the country;

(b) the number of such districts identified so far; and

(c) the target fixed to develop these districts?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA)

(a) & (b): A Committee (headed by Dr. E.A.S. Sarma, the then Principal Advisor,Planning Commission) was constituted in 1997 to, inter-alia, identify the 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country. The broad parameters adopted by the Committee to analyze the causes of backwardness, included indicators of deprivation (poverty ratio) and social and economic infrastructure. The Committee identified 100 most backward and poorest districts in the country. A list of these districts is annexed.

(c): The Ministry of Rural Development is implementing programmes pertaining,inter-alia, to poverty alleviation, employment generation, infrastructure development, watershed development, social security and land reforms, with a view to improve the quality of life in the rural areas and assist people below the poverty line. These programmes are being closely monitored and are being evaluated from time to time. The allocation driven programmes, having specific targets, are also being implemented in amongst other, these 100 most backward and poorest districts.

Annexure as referred to in part (b) of reply to the Lok Sabha Unstarred Question No. 2452 to be answered on 13.3.2001

List of most Backward & Poorest Districts as identified by the Sarma Committee

S.No.	Name of Districts	S.No.	Name of Districts
1	NALANDA	51	SHEORE
2	BHOJPUR	52	RAISEN
3	RANCHI	53	BETUL
4	AURANGABAD	54	HOSHANGABAD
5	JEHANABAD	55	NARSIMHAPUR
6	GAYA	56	MANDLA
7	NAWADA	57	CHHINDWARA
8	SARAN	58	SEONI
9	SIWAN	59	BALAGHAT
10	GOPALGANJ	60	RAJNANDGAON
11	PACHIM CHAMARAN	61	SURGUJA
12	PURBA CHAMPARAN	62	AURANGABAD
13	SITAMARHI	63	JALNA
14	MUZAFFARPUR	64	PARBHANI
15	VAISHALI	65	BEED
16	BEGUSARAI	66	NANDED
17	SAMASTIPUR	67	OSMANABAD
18	DARBHANGA	68	LATUR
19	MADHUBANI	69	BULDANA
20	SAHARSA	70	GADCHIROLI
21	MADHEPURA	71	YAVATMAL
22	PURNIA	72	PHULBANI
23	KATIHAR	73	KALAHANDI
24	KHAGARIA	74	KORAPUT
25	MUNGER	75	KEONJHAR
26	BHAGALPUR	76	DUNGARPUR
27	GODDA	77	BANSWARA
28	SAHIBGANJ	78	WEST SIKKIM
29	DUMKA	79	SOUTH SIKKIM
30	DEOGARH	80	SITAPUR

31 GIRIDIH 81 HARDOI
32 HAZARIBAGH 82 UNNAO
33 PALAMAU 83 RAE BARELI
34 LOHARDAGGA 84 JALAUN
35 GUMLA 85 LALITPUR
36 PACHIM SINGHBHUM 86 HAMIRPUR
37 ARARIA 87 BANDA
38 KISHANGANJ 88 FATEHPUR
39 DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI 89 PRATAPGARH
40 KAITHAL 90 BHARAICH
41 HAMIRPUR 91 BARABANKI
42 BIDAR 92 SIDHARTHNAGAR
43 TIKAMGARH 93 MAHARAJGANJ
44 CHHATARPUR 94 JHANSI
45 PANNA 95 MAU
46 SAGAR 96 KANPUR DEHAT
47 DAMOH 97 KOOCH BEHAR
48 KHARGONE 98 JALPAIGURI
49 KHANDWA 99 MALDAH
50 VIDISHA 100 DARJEELING

List of most Backward & Poorest Districts

S.No. Name of Districts S.No. Name of Districts

1 NALANDA 2 BHOJPUR
3 RANCHI 4 AURANGABAD
5 JEHANABAD 6 GAYA
7 NAWADA 8 SARAN
9 SIWAN 10 GOPALGANJ
11 PACHIM CHAMARAN 12 PURBA CHAMPARAN
13 SITAMARHI 14 MUZAFFARPUR
15 VAISHALI 16 BEGUSARAI
17 SAMASTIPUR 18 DARBHANGA
19 MADHUBANI 20 SAHARSA
21 MADHEPURA 22 PURNEA
23 KATIHAR 24 KHAGARIA
25 MUNGER 26 BHAGALPUR
27 GODDA 28 SAHIBGANJ
29 DUMKA 30 DEOGARH
31 GIRIDIH 32 HAZARIBAGH
33 PALAMAU 34 LOHARDAGGA
35 GUMLA 36 PACHIM SINGHBHUM
37 ARARIA 38 KISHANGANJ
39 DADRA & NAGAR HAVELI 40 KAITHAL
41 HAMIRPUR 42 BIDAR
43 TIKAMGARH 44 CHATARPUR
45 PANNA 46 SAGAR
47 DAMOH 48 KHARGONE
49 KHANDWA 50 VIDISHA
51 SHEORE 52 RAISEN
53 BETUL 54 HOSHANGABAD
55 NARSINHPUR 56 MANDLA
57 CHHINDWARA 58 SEONI
59 BALAGHAT 60 RAJNANDGAON
61 SURGUJA 62 AURANGABAD
63 JALNA 64 PARBHANI
65 BEED 66 NANDED
67 OSMANABAD 68 LATUR
69 BULDANA 70 GADCHIROLI
71 YAVATMAL 72 PHULBANI
73 KALAHANDI 74 KORAPUT
75 KEONJHAR 76 DUNGARPUR
77 BANSWARA 78 WEST SIKKIM
79 SOUTH SIKKIM 80 SITAPUR
81 HARDOI 82 UNNAO
83 RAE BARELI 84 JALAUN
85 LALITPUR 86 HAMIRPUR
87 BANDA 88 FATEHPUR
89 PRATAPGARH 90 BHARAICH
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93 MAHARAJGANJ 94 JHANSI
95 MAU 96 KANPUR DEHAT
97 KOOCH BEHAR 98 JALPAIGURI
99 MALDAH 100 DARJEELING